

The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1912.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

The soft weather of Indian summer has little hint of Christmas in it, but the orthodox calendar insists that the festive season is only six weeks distant. Why not begin Christmas shopping now? In the past few years the increased sentiment for social consideration has done much to mitigate the terrors of the belated rush of Christmas buying. The true spirit of the season has taught men and women that a practical way of bringing peace and good-will to earth is to lighten the burdens of those who provide them with gifts. The agitation for a safe and sane Christmas has had real results in easing the strain on salespeople, and in reducing the night work that kept many girls on their feet until nearly midnight for some days before the holiday.

There are good reasons why early shopping grows in favor. The stores encourage it because it enables them to give better service, to avoid the mistakes and confusion of a mad rush, and to keep their stocks full and attractive. The shop-girls favor it because it enables them to save a little time and strength for the proper enjoyment of the festival themselves. Their bodies, nerves and tempers are improved. But for the buyers themselves does the plan hold most reward. They get fresh, clean and unbroken goods. They get better attention and prompt service. They are freed from the doubt as to delivery and condition. They can give to the selection of gifts the thought and careful selection that mean much more to the recipient than the price. Best of all, if shopping is done in leisurely fashion at regular hours, the womenfolk are delivered from the trouble and worry that too often spoil the very heart of what should be a season of happiness.

AN INSTRUMENT OF INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT.

A notable feature of the election last week was the widespread confusion caused by the long ballot. From the Atlantic to the Pacific voters were impeded in the registration of their choice by ballots both unwieldy and mystifying; the complexity of the long sheets was so great that untold thousands must have completely failed to register their true desire. In Pennsylvania eleven party tickets extended the ballot to amazing proportions, so that the boxes were gorged long before the polls had closed. Mayor Blankenbush, of Philadelphia, who voted at noon, had to stuff his ballot into the box with a poker. The ballot voted in Chicago Tuesday is said to have been the largest ever voted. In the State of Washington the official paper was thirty inches wide and forty long. In Oregon the submission of thirty-eight proposed constitutional amendments, added to the names of national, State and local candidates, necessitated an immense ballot. One of the Chicago papers said, with much truth in its humor, that the problem of the voter was to get himself and his ballot into the booth at the same time.

Let us consider a specific instance illustrative of the evil of the long ballot. The case of the citizens of Denver is in point. Last Tuesday they were supposed to select the best men after weighing discriminatingly the qualifications of:

- Seven candidates for President of the United States.
- Four candidates for United States Senator, long term.
- Four candidates for United States Senator, unfilled vacancy.
- Nine candidates for Congressman at large, voting for two.
- Five candidates for Congressman.
- Six candidates for judge of the State Supreme Court for a term of ten years.
- Six candidates for Governor.
- Six candidates for Lieutenant-Governor.
- Five candidates for Secretary of State.
- Six candidates for State Auditor.
- Six candidates for State Treasurer.
- Five candidates for Attorney-General.
- Five candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Four candidates for regent of the State university, to fill vacancy.
- Nine candidates for regent of State university, voting for two.
- Sixteen candidates for district judge.
- Four candidates for district attorney.
- Five candidates for State Senator, Twenty-Second District.
- Fourteen candidates for State Senator, First District, voting for three.
- Fifty-two candidates for representative in the State Legislature, voting for eleven.
- Three candidates for judge of the Juvenile Court.
- Four candidates for judge of the County Court.
- Ten candidates for justice of the peace.
- Twelve candidates for constable.

In addition to putting upon these

men, the citizens of Denver had to approve or disapprove a number of measures. Under the initiative, twenty proposed laws were submitted to them at the polls, and under the referendum six.

The State Legislature also submitted five proposed amendments to the Constitution to be voted upon and then voluntarily referred an act to the people.

What possibility is there that the people of Denver really considered the qualifications of such a multitude of candidates? How many of them knew the pros and cons of the men and measures upon whom and upon which they have to pass? The evil of the long ballot must be manifest. When an electorate has to fill so many offices at one time, it cannot act with the information and intelligence that it should possess, and so the result is that inevitable government is aided by the long ballot, for inefficient and corrupt men creep into office because the people have had no opportunity to scrutinize their records. The long ballot requires a scrutiny which the electors cannot possibly give. The result is usually misgovernment. The remedy is the short ballot, which embodies the principle of filling only a few offices by election at one time, and eliminating the necessity of filling subordinate offices. This result is reached by vesting the few elected with the power to appoint subordinates, and by holding the appointing officers responsible for the efficiency or inefficiency of the appointed.

IN THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY PERMANENT?

"The Progressive party has come to stay," Roosevelt declares, but has it? Would the withdrawal of the third term from the Progressive party leave it more than a hollow shell? "During the campaign I said repeatedly that this was in no shape or way a one-man movement, but a movement for great principles—a movement which has sprung, as all healthy movements in our democracy must spring, from the heart and conscience of the people themselves," Roosevelt declares. But what fact is there to show that the Progressive party is not a mere one-man movement?

In the present House of Representatives there are about twenty Progressive Republicans; in the House of Representatives elected last Tuesday there will be ten or twelve out-and-out Progressive Republicans. In the present Senate there are six Progressive Republicans; in the new Senate there will be only two or three Progressive Republicans who will persist in remaining without the pale of the regular Republican party. The Progressives in States where they are powerful did not concern themselves with electing Progressive Republican legislators. Why?

Roosevelt received more votes than Taft, but that reveals nothing as to what a Progressive Republican candidate other than the third term would have received. The Republicans in the minority in Congress and in the State governments are regular Republicans. The number of Progressives elected to office of any kind is negligible.

The division in the Republican party is purely personal. The split was caused by no essential difference as to principles, but because of irreconcilable personal preferences. If the hand of fate had removed Roosevelt and Taft from the face of the earth before the Republican convention met at Chicago, there would have been no rupture. If there could have come to Roosevelt at Chicago the one unselfish hour of his whole life, his self-effacement would have welded the factions of the Republican party.

No personal party can endure. By their very nature, political parties depend upon no individual for their permanency. This Roosevelt knows. United the Republican party may stand, but split into factions all factions fall. Undoubtedly, he will strive to enlist beneath the red flag of his faction what is left of the old Republican party, but if he cannot prevail, he will merge the Progressive Republicans with the old line Republicans. As readily as he abandoned the old Republican party to gain his goal, as readily he will throw overboard the Progressive party as a sacrifice to his imperial ambition.

WHAT IS THE "MIDDLE CLASS?"

The following letter to The Times-Dispatch raises an interesting question. We print it here, not anticipating that we can give the desired enlightenment, but because it suggests a profitable vein of speculation.

November 7, 1912.
 Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Dear Sir:—In your editorial of today's issue on "Some Automobile Figures" in the last clause of the next to the last paragraph, you use the words, "cars now purchased by the middle class." Please enlighten me as to what constitutes that class.

Yours very truly,
 JUNIPER.

Our phrase in full ran, the middle class family of moderate means. It did not imply, as our correspondent seems to think, a social division, but an economic one. We were thinking of the increase of automobile purchases among families whose incomes range between \$2,000 and \$10,000 a year. Certainly in these days of high prices, there sums, that twenty years ago would have meant almost affluence, may be well called moderate. According to a monetary standard these figures define a middle class.

"Juniper" appears to feel that what used to be called the "middle class" no longer exists. We are tempted to agree. The substantial, prosperous, independent business man and professional class are fast disappearing. The individual enterprise conducted by the energy and ability of the man with small capital is being crowded out by

corporations and companies in which practically all the workers are salaried employees. Perhaps the farmers alone really now constitute a middle class in that sense of independence. But if a middle class does exist, it must be the group of Americans not included in what may be called the laboring class; that is, those who live by actual manual toil of various degrees of skill, or the interest-drawing class, who live in part by the returns on investments.

By other than money standards, we do not believe a middle class can be defined. Character, brains, education, culture and personal charm are found in all strata of our society. Just as fine men and women are to be discovered among those who labor with their hands and live on small salaries as among the very rich. Nor does the possession of great wealth prevent a man from being a true democrat and doing great service to his fellows. True worth still depends upon the inside quality and not upon the outside adornments.

A WISE REVISION.

The Sheikh-ul-Islam, who is the court of last resort in Moslem things spiritual, has taken a reef in his proclamation of a holy war. That is to say, he declares he did not mean what he says, or was misunderstood. He will not unfurl the green banner of the prophet, which is now supposed to be reposing in the seraglio at Constantinople, and which Selim I. compelled the spiritual representative of the old Abbasside family to surrender to him, along with other relics of Mohammed, when he invaded Egypt in 1517, broke the Mameluke power, and, by methods more energetic than gentle, "won" for the house of Osman the caliphate of Islam, and acquired the rights and the privileges of the successors of the founders of the faith.

The sacred emblem, the ghost of which has so often perturbed Europe since it was transferred from Cairo, will remain where it is, or is credited with being, for the present at least, and for all time we doubt not, unless in the event of some sack of Stamboul it finds its way to an infidel museum. So it should be.

The Sheikh-ul-Islam's revision, or "reassuring explanation" of his proclamation, is wise. A holy war spells slaughter and arousement of religious zeal, fanaticism and bitterness two could engage in.

Not that we apprehend or believe there would be a trial of conclusions between Christendom and Islam universal. The day of the crusaders has passed; likewise has passed the day when all Islam could be rallied in a general onslaught on Christianity. But the proclamation of a jihad at this particular crisis would carry the menace of evoking sporadic sympathetic response in all Mohammedan lands.

We have recently had ominous indications thereof in India, and in the unrest among the Sunnites of the hinterlands of Tripoli and Morocco, amid whom it is now prophesied the Mahdi will arise. Anything like a widespread or formidable movement acknowledgedly anti-Islamic and aimed specifically at regency of the Crescent could not but tend to bind the Christian powers together, morally and physically, in opposition.

It could not but serve, in the last analysis of the conflict, to draw the line distinctly on religious antagonism. It might, and doubtless would, realize the fear prevalent among so many Mohammedans of a combination of the Christian powers, or some of them, to subordinate all other considerations to crushing out the last vestige of Islamic autonomy or sway on the face of the earth.

The Sheikh-ul-Islam has taken counsel of wisdom and foresight.

For the benefit of those who fear to leave money behind a loose brick in the chimney, we state that the City Democratic Committee is a perfectly safe place to keep it in.

The unspeakable Turk seems knocked speechless.

One thing must be said for suffrage parades. They are a lot more attractive than any other kind.

The boys do not need dime novels any longer. They read about the "Dynamiters" and the "Gunmen" and the "Aviators," and get all the necessary thrills.

"We believe that Mr. Thomas Fortune Ryan calls himself a farmer, but we hardly think he has much chance of being appointed Secretary of Agriculture under the incoming administration," the Ohio State Journal thinks.

One or two newspapers, and we are glad to say the number of them is exceedingly small, are finding much enjoyment in lauding themselves over the adoption of the amendment of the Constitution affecting city revenues and commissioning their single out the newspapers which opposed the amendment and rejoice that the defeat of the opposition was so decisive. The Petersburg Index-Appeal, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the Newport News Press, the Harrisonburg News and the Evening World comprise the list which had the audacity to fight on the other side and which naturally failed to pick up either the subscribers or the officeholders' supporters. The chief point made by them against the proposed measure was that the Legislature in submitting it this year had violated the State Constitution. They fought for the maintenance of the Constitution's force and dignity and to prevent it from being the victim of question-begging legislation. They contended that the Constitution is a sacred instrument, and that no alteration of its requirements should be made except through the most orderly processes. For taking this position these newspapers, in our judgment, are entitled to the earnest approval of every thoughtful citizen. When the voice of a courageous and independent press is silenced, the plight of our State will be worse than if no press existed. We have no purpose to praise ourselves.—Richmond World.

A happy wife is allus a good house-keeper. It's funny somebody don't forget themselves an' shoot th' post that puts his hand on your shoulder.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Our Model Apartment House.

We are about to expend our accumulated dough in building a model apartment house. The house will be seven stories in height and will accommodate eighty-seven families. Following are some of the improved features:

Patent dining room tables that may be turned into beds upon the slightest provocation. Tennis courts will not have to have any furniture.

Beer bottles that will give the milkman a distinct electric shock when he tries to take them out of the ice box.

Noiseless horseless piano in every flat. To hear the music those in the flat will have to use rubber tubes attached to the manner of the old-fashioned phonograph.

We will have a ubiquitous janitor who can be in all of the eighty-seven flats at the same time. He can shake a rug on the seventh floor and stoke the furnace in the basement at the same instant.

The elevator will be at all of the seven floors at the same time.

The Good Old Mellowdram.

Some say they like grand opera and think it is immense.

And buy their tickets for it, regardless of expense.

They hear a lot of language they cannot understand.

Because they can't see through it, they call it opera "grand."

They go to hear Caruso and Tetrazzini screech.

In high falutin' grammar that's quite beyond their reach.

They wear their silks and diamonds and leave their shoulders bare.

And miss no opportunity to let folks know they're there.

They hear the fancy music and think it's out of sight.

Because the tenor pulls down a thousand plunks a night.

Although he couldn't cop out one-tenth of that at home.

And that's the reason why he has crossed the ocean's foam.

Some cheap organ grinder picks up a fancy name.

Comes over in the steeple and grabs a bunch of fame.

And when the folks have heard him and when the show is out.

They wonder what in thunder the thing was all about.

Not for your Uncle Dudley. The "grand stuff" I will pass.

The show that gets my boodle is one that has some class.

Where actors do some actin' and speak United States.

And not some foreign lingo that squeals and jara and grates.

There's always somethin' doin' in each quick. He is fertile. He is self-confident.

And human love or hatred becomes a living fact.

The hero and the villain is scrappin' all the time.

And when the villain gets his, by gosh, it is sublime.

I love them there explosions that make the women scream.

Them sawmills and pile-drivers is sure a perfect dream.

Them pasteboard rains a-scootin' across the stage is great.

You hold your breath a-fearin' the hero will be late.

But no, by heck, he gets there upon his trusty steed.

And grabs his sweetheart to him right in the time of need.

For real, bang-up show actin' that goes with dash and slam.

There's nothing that can equal the good old mellowdram.

Personal.

Link: The best place to have a boil is on your father-in-law or your uncle.

Fond Mother: Name the child Abah and then nobody will ever be able to find an unpleasant abbreviation for it.

Collector: The 25-cent piece you refer to has a value. It is worth a quarter.

Clarion Woman: We have received your letter. Among the books we would recommend for your reading are a good English grammar and Webster's dictionary.

Anxious: The best way to be sure and not fall in the literary profession is to stay out of it entirely.

According to Uncle Abner.

Miss Fanny Perkins has gone East to see a beauty specialist. It seems that Miss Perkins was helping with the family washing last Monday, and being quite nearsighted, stooped over to see if she was feeding a peck-a-boob shirtwaist through the wringer properly. Her nose was caught in the wringer and considerably flattened before she stopped turning the crank.

Ansel Hanks has bought a new home and lot in the last year on his salary of \$10 per week in the feed mill and has paid cash. The board of trustees of the Harshfield Church has asked him to relinquish his position, which is that of passing the collection plate. The board passed a resolution praising Mr. Hanks' integrity and regretting that his services must be dispensed with on account of his health. Hereafter Rev. Oldmatt will pass the plate himself.

A Good Company

One or two newspapers, and we are glad to say the number of them is exceedingly small, are finding much enjoyment in lauding themselves over the adoption of the amendment of the Constitution affecting city revenues and commissioning their single out the newspapers which opposed the amendment and rejoice that the defeat of the opposition was so decisive. The Petersburg Index-Appeal, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the Newport News Press, the Harrisonburg News and the Evening World comprise the list which had the audacity to fight on the other side and which naturally failed to pick up either the subscribers or the officeholders' supporters. The chief point made by them against the proposed measure was that the Legislature in submitting it this year had violated the State Constitution. They fought for the maintenance of the Constitution's force and dignity and to prevent it from being the victim of question-begging legislation. They contended that the Constitution is a sacred instrument, and that no alteration of its requirements should be made except through the most orderly processes. For taking this position these newspapers, in our judgment, are entitled to the earnest approval of every thoughtful citizen. When the voice of a courageous and independent press is silenced, the plight of our State will be worse than if no press existed. We have no purpose to praise ourselves.—Richmond World.

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